

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 022031Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5171
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2859

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, CD, EG, LY, PLO
SUBJ: UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISITS TO CHAD AND LIBYA:
MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN TRIPOLI

1. DURING AMB LEONARD'S AUGUST 31 CALL ON UN SECRETARY
GENERAL WALDHEIM, THE LATTER VOLUNTEERED SOME DETAILS ABOUT
HIS VISIT TO CHAD AND LIBYA AUGUST 22-24.

2. WALDHEIM SAID THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS LIBYA HAD BEEN
ASKING HIM TO VISIT. EARLIER THIS YEAR HE HAD ACCEPTED THE
INVITATION AND AGREED TO TRAVEL TO LIBYA FOLLOWING HIS VISIT
TO LAGOS FOR THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. SUBSEQUENTLY,
HOWEVER, HOSTILITIES BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA HAD ERUPTED.
WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD NOT WANTED TO APPEAR TO BE TAKING SIDES
WITH LIBYA THROUGH A VISIT TO TRIPOLI. ACCORDINGLY, WALDHEIM
SAID HE HASTILY ARRANGED A VISIT TO CHAD EN ROUTE TO LIBYA,
SO AS TO PLACE HIS VISIT TO LIBYA IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
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BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA. WALDHEIM
BELIEVED THAT HIS VISITS HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING
DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA.

3. WALDHEIM SAID THAT THE LIBYANS HAD EXPRESSED MUCH
CONCERN TO HIM OVER EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY
OF FURTHER EGYPTIAN ATTACKS. THE LIBYANS HAD SOUGHT TO IMPLY

TO HIM THAT WERE HOSTILITIES WITH EGYPT TO START AGAIN,
SOVIET MILITARY INVOLVEMENT ON LIBYA'S SIDE WAS
PREDICTABLE.

4. WALDHEIM THEN SAID THAT, QUITE UNEXPECTEDLY, HE HAD
MET PLO LEADER ARAFAT IN LIBYA. ACCORDING TO WALDHEIM,
ARAFAT DOES NOT RULE OUT PLO ACCEPTANCE OF UNSC RESOLUTION
242. ARAFAT HAD TOLD HIM THAT ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION
242 COULD BE POSSIBLE, WERE A RELATED RESOLUTION TO BE
ADOPTED WHOSE PROVISIONS SUPPORTED THE RIGHTS OF
PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, EQUAL RIGHTS, A
HOMELAND, AND FREEDOM TO RETURN TO FORMER HOMES IN
ISRAEL. IN DISCUSSING THIS, LEONARD AND WALDHEIM
RECOGNIZED THAT, GIVEN THE MANY PLO FACTIONS, IT WOULD
BE HARD TO ESTIMATE THE DEGREE OF PLO SUPPORT FOR THE
POSITION ON RESOLUTION 242 EXPRESSED BY ARAFAT.
LEONARD

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